

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 CPR-01 SS-15 NSC-05 VO-03 SCA-01

PPT-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 L-03 SP-02 H-02 USIA-06

/065 W

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R 121721Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1651

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

USMISSION USBERLIN UNN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BERLIN 6694

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, CGEN, CPAS, AFSP, GE

SUBJECT: VISAING AND ENTRY OF MARVIN T. DOIG, RSO, FSS-2, EMBASSY  
BERLIN, AND FAMILY INTO EAST BERLIN ON ARRIVAL

REF: (A) USBERLIN 2152; (B) BERLIN 6267; (C) USBERLIN 1957  
(ALL NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: DIPLOMATIC PASSPOSRTS OF MARVIN T. DOIG  
AND HIS FAMILY WERE INAPPROPRIATELY VISAED BY GDR  
EMBASSY ADDIS ABABA AND WERE INADVERTENTLY STAMPED  
BY GDR POLICE AT FRIEDRICHSTRASSE BAHNHOF WHEN THEY  
ARRIVED IN EAST BERLIN BY TRAIN FROM FRANKFURT ON  
NOVEMBER 5, 1975. WHEN THESE TWO UNACCEPTABLE ACTIONS  
WERE BROUGHT TO ATTENTION OF CONSULAR DEPARTMENT, MFA,  
AT FIRST AVAILABLE OPPORTUNITY, THE GDR OFFICIALS  
INVOLVED PROMPTLY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THESE WERE MIS-  
TAKES, CANCELLED VISAS AND ENTRY CARNETS AND REISSUED  
ONE YEAR MULTIPLE ENTRY-EXIT VISAS IN PROPER FORMAT.  
END SUMMARY.

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2. WHEN MR. DOIG AND HIS FAMILY OBTAINED GDR ENTRY VISAS

FROM GDR EMBASSY ADDIS ABABA, THAT OFFICE ISSUED THREE-MONTH SINGLE ENTRY-EXIT DIPLOMATIC VISAS WITH THE DESTINATION UNACCEPTABLY DESCRIBED AS "BERLIN HAUPTSTADT DER DDR" (BERLIN CAPITAL OF THE GDR) RATHER THAN AS "DDR (GDR). THE UNACCEPTABLE WORDING WAS NOT DETECTED, AND THE DOIGS TRAVELLED TO THE FRG. MR DOIG THEN PROPOSED HIS FAMILY TRAVEL BY TRAIN FROM FRANKFURT TO BERLIN, GETTING OFF AT FRIEDRICHSTRASSE BAHNHOF. IN LIGHT OF REF C, THAT PROPOSAL SEEMED APPROPRIATE AND THE EMBASSY APPROVED IT, NOTING TELEPHONICALLY TO HIM THAT HE SHOULD EXPECT TO BE STAMPED IN THE GDR OFFICIALS AT THE FRG/GDR BORDER, I.E., THE RAIL CROSSING AT HELMSTEDT/MARIENBORN. HE WAS ALSO TOLD THAT HIS FAMILY'S PASSPORTS SHOULD NOT BE STAMPED BY GDR OFFICIALS AT ANY CROSSING POINT ON THE SECTOR-TO-SECTOR LINE DIVIDING THE CITY. MR. DOIG REPORTS THAT GDR OFFICIALS DID NOT ATTEMPT TO STAMP THE PASSPORTS AT HELMSTEDT/MARIENBORN, GDR/WEST BERLIN BORDER OF BETWEEN AMZOO (IN WEST BERLIN) AND FRIEDRICHSTRASSE BAHNHOF (IN EAST BERLIN). HOWEVER, AT FINAL BARRIER IN FRIEDRICHSTRASSE BAHNHOF, PASSPORTS WERE STAMPED BY GDR OFFICIALS THROUGH CONFUSION.

3. BOTH UNACCEPTABLE WORDING OF VISAS AND STAMPING, ALTHOUGH APPARENTLY MISTAKENLY PERFORMED BY GDR OFFICIALS, ARE, OF COURSE, UNACCEPTABLE BECAUSE OF U.S. POSITION ON STATUS OF BERLIN. EMBASSY, THEREFORE, ON NOVEMBER 11, REQUESTED CONSULAR DEPARTMENT MFA (SEIDEL) TO (A) CANCEL GDR VISAS ISSUED IN ADDIS ABABA AND REPLACE WITH OTHER VISAS THAT ARE CORRECTLY WORDED AND BEAR APPROPRIATE PERIODS OF VALIDITY, AND (B) CANCEL ENTRY CARNET STAMPED IN ERROR AT FRIEDRICHSTRASSE BAHNHOF. (EMBASSY NOTES THAT MARIENBORN WAS ACTUAL PLACE OF ENTRY INTO THE GDR AND THAT CONFUSION MAY HAVE ARISEN BECAUSE OF INAPPROPRIATE LANGUAGE IN GDR VISAS.)

4. MRS. SEIDEL IMMEDIATELY SAID GDR EMBASSY ADDIS ABABA HAD MADE A MISTAKE AND ISSUED IMPROPERLY WORDED VISAS, WHICH SHOULD HAVE BEEN THREE MONTH MULTIPLE ENTRY-EXIT VISAS "NACH DDR" (TO THE GDR), AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OFFERED TO CANCEL VISAS AND ENTRY CARNETS ON ALL PASSPORTS AND ISSUE ONE YEAR MULTIPLE ENTRY-EXIT VISAS FORTHWITH. (NORMALLY, THREE MONTH MULTIPLE ENTRY-EXIT VISAS ARE ISSUED BY GDR EMBASSIES TO U.S. PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO THIS POST. THE MFA THEN PROMPTLY ISSUES ONE-YEAR MULTIPLE ENTRY-EXIT VISAS ON REQUEST AFTER ARRIVAL HERE.) EMBOFFS AGREED AND THIS WAS DONE IN A MATTER OF MINUTES. SHE ADDED THAT IT WAS NOT THE GDR'S

INTENTION TO HAVE PROBLEMS OF THIS CHARACTER OCCUR.

5. IN VIEW OF PROMPT ACTION BY MFA TO ACKNOWLEDGE ERRORS IN BOTH VISAING AND STAMPING AT FRIEDRICHSTRASSE BAHNHOF, THEIR EXPEDITIONS CANCELLING OF OBJECTIONABLE GDR VISAS AND ENTRY CARNETS, AND QUICK ISSUANCE OF PROPERLY WORDED VISAS, EMBASSY BELIEVES IT IS NOT NECESSARY TO CANCEL DOIG FAMILY PASSPORTS AND APPLY FOR NEW ONES. WE NOTE THAT, ALTHOUGH PROPERLY WORDED VISAS HAVE BEEN SUBSTITUTED IN THE PAST FOR THOSE ISSUED WITH THE UNACCEPTABLE "BERLIN HAUPTSTADT DER DDR" WORDING, THIS IS THE FIRST TIME(A) A SENIOR CONSULAR DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL SPECIFICALLY SAID THAT THAT WORDING WAS "A MISTAKE", AND (B) AN OFFENSIVE ENTRY CARNET (FRIEDRICHSTRASSE BAHNHOF) HAS BEEN CANCELLED BY THE GDR AT EMBASSY REQUEST. (IN THE BONNIE BOWMAN CASE (REF A), REFUSAL OF MFA TO CANCEL CARNET MAY HAVE BEEN PARTIALLY ACCOUNTED FOR BY FACT THAT SHE CARRIED OFFICIAL AND NOT DIPLOMATIC PASSPORT.) AT ANY RATE, WE NOW HAVE A GOOD PRECEDENT TO USE IF EITHER UNACCEPTABLE WORDING USED IN VISAS OR STAMPING OCCURS IN DIPLOMATIC PASSPORTS AT SECTOR-TO-SECTOR CROSSING POINTS WITHIN BERLIN.

6. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT FOLLOWING PROCEDURES BE INSTITUTED:

A) ALL POSTS SHOULD BE CIRCULARIZED TO ENSURE THAT GDR VISAS FOR USG OFFICIALS AND DEPENDENTS ARE ACCEPTED ONLY IF APPROPRIATELY WORDED.

B) ALL POST SHOULD REQUEST MULTIPLE ENTRY-EXIT VISAS FOR OFFICIAL PERSONNEL ASSIGNED OR VISITING HER WHEN SEEKING ENTRY DOCUMENTATION TO THE GDR.

COOPER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 12 NOV 1975  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ElyME  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
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